

20 June 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR All Fort Detrick Personnel

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum FD 20-00 (Personal Protective Equipment)

1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) consists of garments or devices to protect individuals from specific hazards that will be encountered in the performance of their duties. These hazards must be "engineered out," that is, either kept to a minimum through engineering design or by administrative controls (changes in methods or processes). If it is impractical to eliminate a hazard, its source should be guarded, isolated, or confined so that personnel will not be exposed. Protection by mechanical means is generally more reliable than protection which is dependent upon human behavior. Before implementing the use of PPE, five conditions must be satisfied:

a. Analysis of the operation. Each operation shall be assessed to determine the need for PPE and the specific type required. Factors to be considered include: specific exposures, employees' suggestions, and appropriate standards. Standing Operating Procedures and Job Hazard Analysis will be included in these requirements.

b. Approval. To ensure compliance with applicable safety standards, PPE must be approved by each respective safety office prior to issue and use.

c. Training. Supervisors shall periodically cover the care and use of protective articles at safety meetings.

d. Involvement of supervisors. Foremen and supervisors will be especially careful to wear safety apparatuses where required in order to set an example and gain experience in solving problems created by the use of these devices. Employees' complaints pertaining to PPE shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated; garments and devices will be promptly and thoroughly inspected; and garments and devices will be properly adjusted to the individual and repairs made without

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delay.

e. Maintenance. An individual's life may depend on the quality of his or her safety equipment; therefore, the equipment

must be properly maintained. Cleaning and disinfecting is especially important for equipment worn about the face. An appropriate inspection schedule shall be implemented which takes into account the types of equipment used, frequency of use, recommendations of national consensus standards, and the size of the operation. Proper maintenance and commitment is necessary to ensure a high standard of equipment maintenance.

Weekly inspections should be conducted by supervisory personnel and provisions made for laundering, disinfecting, or decontaminating protective garments to ensure compliance with sanitary standards.

f. Changing facilities. When individuals are required to wear special clothing and this necessitates changing from street clothes, a designated changing area will be established. Protective clothing worn at work will not be worn or taken away from the premises due to the potential for exposure to personnel not associated with Army operations. Special clothing or equipment shall not be altered except at the specific direction of a competent authority.

2. Pre-employment and pre-placement physical examinations will include a determination of the individual's capability to wear the PCE required for the performance of his or her duties. Exceptions will only be granted in emergencies and on a case-by-case basis following a determination by the Director of Health Services or the employee's private physician. If the prospective employee opts for the services of a private physician, the individual will incur the expense of the services rendered.

3. Management is responsible for identifying those positions which require the wearing of PCE. Additionally, management will establish physical requirements for these positions and notify the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center of the requirement.

4. This memorandum supersedes Fort Detrick Memorandum FD 20-98, MCHD-OSE, 25 June 1998, Subject: Protective Clothing and

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Equipment, signed by the previous commander.

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